



004002-33309.JBM.254206

Atty. Docket 4002-3309

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of:

Branch et al.

Serial No. 10/645,413

Filed August 21, 2003

INTERBODY FUSION GRAFTS AND  
INSTRUMENTATION

)  
)  
) Before the Examiner  
)  
) Group Art Unit  
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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Please consider this Preliminary Amendment in the above-captioned application prior to examination.

It is believed that no fee is required for consideration of the submitted items. Should any fee be required, however, please charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 23-3030, but not to include any payment of issue fees.

Amendments to the specification begin on page 2 of this submission. Remarks begin on page 3 of this submission.

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|---|-------------------|
| I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as <b>first class mail</b> in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. |                   |
| <u>January 5, 2004</u>  | (Date of Deposit) |
| <u>James B. Myers, Jr.</u>  |                   |
| Name of Registered Representative   |                   |
| <u>James B. Myers, Jr.</u>  | Signature         |
| <u>January 5, 2004</u>  | Date of Signature |